



March 25, 2005

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am writing to express AeA's strong support for immediate Congressional passage of legislation implementing the U.S.-Central America- Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA). AeA is the largest electronics and high technology trade association in the United States, with over 3,000 member companies employing over 1.8 million Americans in all segments of the industry, including electronics, computer, telecommunication equipment, semiconductor, software, electronic parts and components.

International trade is vitally important to our high-tech industry – on average, more than 60 percent of U.S. technology industry revenues are derived from outside the U.S. The DR-CAFTA will open new export opportunities and expanded markets for a wide array of U.S. high-tech products. As part of this agreement, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua will join the WTO Information Technology Agreement (ITA) and eliminate tariffs on specific high-tech products entering their markets saving U.S. high-tech companies \$75 million annually in import duties.

Opening foreign markets to U.S. high-tech exports is essential to the continued growth of our industry. Small and medium sized companies comprise nearly 50% of U.S. exports to our Central American partners and the DR-CAFTA will provide more open and fair access for these companies to the growing markets in this region. AeA strongly supports Congressional approval of the DR-CAFTA before the Memorial Day recess. Thank you for your continued leadership on high-tech legislative priorities. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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